

Knoxville Philatelic Society News

July 2008



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APS Chapter 1189-119261

www.stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm
www.virtualstampclub.com/apschapknoxville.html

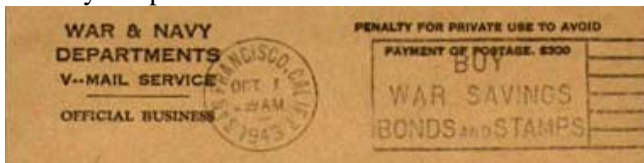
Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs

Wartime Mail

Ralph Dinwiddie's excellent program on Patriotic Covers of the U.S. brings to mind the fact that mail transport during a war can pose some significant challenges. The Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum opened an exhibit in March, 2008 devoted to "V-Mail," developed in World War II in order to accommodate the huge volume of mail to and from troops and the home front. Not only is there an exhibit to view in Washington, but some highlights and important historical information are on the museum's website - <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/VictoryMail/index.html> - and the exhibit's logo is shown above.



V-Mail forms were filled out and mailed to a military processing facility, where they were photographed and printed at reduced size, and the print mailed on to the military recipient.



A V-Mail envelope sent from Iceland to San Francisco.



On the "Using V-Mail" tab on the Postal Museum's website is a link to a blank V-Mail form that you can print and mail (with a stamp).

The stamp, "V-Mail delivers letters from home," was part of the 1943 World War II souvenir sheet.

Tom Broadhead

President's Column

For most of us, summer is a time for exceptional living. We do things in the warm, slow months that we normally don't have time for otherwise. For most of us, it's the time to step away from our jobs and take a vacation. Kids are off school, and the long days change our daily routine. Outdoor duties in the yard take up more time, and often our stamp collections sit idle. It doesn't have to be that way. There are many things we can do even on our travels to keep involved in our hobby. Last month's newsletter gave me an interest in checking out some of the postal history in areas where I travel. Travel also takes us to areas where stamp dealers might be located. I lived for years in Pennsylvania far from any dealers or other known collectors. I got into the habit of checking for stamp dealers in the places I traveled. It not only provided me with several real "finds," but also was a pleasant way to make new friends and enjoy vacation time.

I travel in the summer doing mission camps with teenagers. I will be everywhere from an Indian reservation in Wyoming to the Finger Lakes of upstate New York. It means I will miss the regular meeting in July, but I look forward to our 5th Tuesday gathering on July 29th.

My main area of collecting has been U.S. stamps, and I also enjoy listening to shortwave radio broadcasts while I work on my collection. For those who are able to receive shortwave, there is an excellent program about Stamp Collecting weekly on Radio Havana Cuba. It airs at 10:00 pm on Saturdays nights on 6.000 MHz. Setting the politics aside, they often share interesting news and information about stamps around the world

There's a lot to see, do, hear, and experience in the world of Stamps.

Roy Row

Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – June 3, 2008

The June meeting of the KPS was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by president Roy Row. There were 19 members and visitors in attendance. Phyllis Conklin and new member Jonathan Trent were visiting for the first time.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. A sign-up sheet was passed around to get volunteers for programs for the remainder of the year. The treasurer's report, showing an overall balance of \$6698.48, was approved.

Jim Pettway announced that our club will be able to have free membership in the American Philatelic Society because at least one-third of our members are APS members. Also, in October, one can join the APS at a discounted rate. There was a discussion about our club's copy of the APS magazine, which is donated to the Knox County Public Library. Bruce Roberts will investigate the possibility of putting a label with information about the club on the magazine. There were other suggestions for possible PR at the library. Stu Hanlein announced that very nice, FREE downloadable album pages may be found on the new APS e-newsletter, and he passed around examples.

Ralph Dinwiddie presented a powerpoint program on Patriotic Covers, showing many from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, WWI, and WWII, and we were able to examine some actual covers. There are few covers from the Korean War, Viet Nam Conflict, and few or none from the Gulf War, Iraq, and Desert Storm. This led to a discussion of why this is the case. There was the opinion that political correctness has much to do with this seeming lack of patriotism. Ralph gave examples of many different cachet designers, including Fluegel, Crosby, Knapp, Fleetwood, Staelhe, and Art Craft. He also passed around a number of Civil War covers. All in all, it was a

The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets the 1st and 5th Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Annual dues are \$15.00.

KPS Officers:

President	Roy Row
Past President	Jim Pettway
Vice President	Ralph Dinwiddie
Treasurer	Thomas Lane
Secretary	Jo Mynatt
Directors	Richard Ehrlich, Stu Hanlein, Thomas Lane, Bruce Roberts
APS Representative	Jim Pettway

Requests for information and submissions of articles and short notes of philatelic interest for the newsletter may be directed to Tom Broadhead, KPS, P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422 – or by e-mail to tomwb50@aol.com.

very interesting and educational program!

President Row announced that we need committee chairpersons for Knorpex 2009. Especially needed NOW is a Bourse Chairman. All members are asked to consider volunteering for this position, or other committees. There was a suggestion that we invite a postcard dealer to be part of Knorpex 2009, and Bruce Roberts and Thomas Lane said they would "scope out" and recommend someone for our show. Bruce Roberts again asked for help with the exhibits at the SE Show in September - contact him for details.

Bruce Roberts mentioned that a good source of information and fantastic photos of stamps is at the Segal Auction web site - www.rsegal.com. This can be used as a valuable resource for research and study. Tom Broadhead won several awards for two exhibits at a recent show, including two gold awards, two APS awards, and other awards. His exhibits were the Franco-German Balloon Mail and French Art Deco Collections. While on the subject, Bruce Roberts announced that the popular workshops on "How to Exhibit" will begin in August, preceding the regular meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted, Jo Mynatt, Secretary

Upcoming Events

For additional club listings and events, visit the calendar page of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs - www.stampclubs.com/events.

June 7 – Tennessee Germany Philatelic Society monthly meeting at Lawson McGhee Library, 500 W. Church Ave., Knoxville 37902. Visit www.stampclubs.com/tngps for future meeting dates.

July 1 – KPS monthly meeting - Program.

July 29 – KPS 5th Tuesday meeting – Executive Board at 6:00; swap, trade, and APS circuit sales at 7:00.

August 5 – KPS monthly meeting – Program

September 26-28 – Southeastern Stamp Show, an APS World Series of Philately show ...

March 7-8 – Knorpex 2009 – Honoring the 200th birth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln. Holiday Inn Select on Cedar Bluff Rd., Knoxville.

Stamp of the Month

Here is the variable rate semipostal, breast cancer awareness stamp (Scott B1). First issued in 1998 (32¢ + 8¢), this has truly been the first U.S. "forever" stamp, still in use following several rate increases. It now sells for 55¢ (42¢ + 13¢). Proceeds for research have been almost \$60 million.



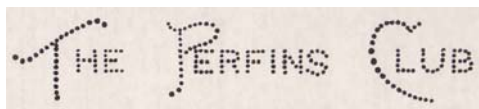
Thanks to Ralph Dinwiddie for donating these stamps.

Perfins

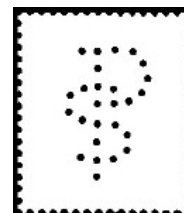
by Tom Broadhead

The philatelic term “perfin,” a contracted form of “perforated initial,” describes a stamp that has had one or more circular or other-shaped holes punched in it before it was used. For more than a century, and almost exactly a century in the U.S., many companies and government offices have made these perforations to identify perfin stamps as being officially used by them. If a person was caught using a perfin stamp for personal mail unrelated to the company or government office, it was proof of theft. It also prevented employees from making money by selling unused stamps back to the post office.

Perfins are an interesting collecting area, and it can be quite a challenge to identify a company by its initials punched into a stamp since removed from its card or cover. I found two perfin collecting organizations on the



web, and wanted to share with you an image from each of their sites. The Perfins Club, www.perfins.org, is an organization principally of U.S. collectors. Its logo is, of course, a beautiful



perfin design, shown above at left. The Perfin Society is a group of principally British collectors, who also have a very attractive perfin-themed logo (at right), showing the back side of a stamp with entwined P and S (www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc).

In addition to those organizations' sites, I also found one (www.essorment.com/all/collectingpostage_pbr.htm), that gives a brief history of perfins. Their invention is attributed to an Englishman, Joseph Sloper, who received a patent on the process in 1858, and ten years later obtained a government contract giving him the monopoly on perforating stamps in Britain. Forty years later, the idea reached the U.S., and the April 1908, the POSTAL BULLETIN said in part, "United States postage stamps, to be accepted for postage, must be absolutely without defacement: Provided That for the purpose of identification only, and not for advertising, it shall be permissible to puncture or perforate letters, numerals, or other such marks or devices in United States postage and special-delivery stamps...." (reference copied from the [essorment.com](http://www.essorment.com) website). The author of that site states that there are more than 20,000 different British perfins, more than 6,000 different U.S. perfins, approximately 12,000 German perfins, and almost 3,000 French perfins. Perfins are not known from some countries, and others, such as Haiti (one perfin design) have very few.

Let's look at some examples of perfins and try to understand their meaning. The small British half penny stamp



(1870) at far left shows a BBrs perfin, representing the company of Baring Brothers. To the right of it is an Australian stamp (1913) with an OS perfin, indicating Official Service. A note in the Scott Catalog concerning Australian official stamps indicates that the OS perfin was used from 1913-1931 and was followed by an OS overprint (1931-1932). The overprints are listed, but the perfins are not listed in the regular Scott Catalog. However, a note indicates they can be found in the Scott Classic Specialized Catalog.

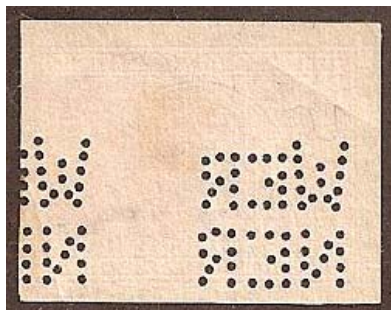
Another interesting perfin, but not one intended to be used is shown below at left. The Bermuda stamp of 1940 has an arched arrangement of the letters in the word SPECIMEN. This perfin indicates that the stamp was an

sample, either for practice use by postal clerks or to be sent as a reference copy to a foreign country's postal service. It would be a great collectible stamp for an exhibit or collection specializing in this stamp issue. The U.S. revenue stamp of 1952 at far right has a cancel that matches the perfin – as it should. The perfin is backwards (this is not an unusual feature), and read from right to left is GTco – matching the Guaranty Trust Co. hand stamp. Even though it has a nice, socked-on-the-nose cancel, the Scott catalog prices an example of this \$100 stamp with a perfin at only one fourth the value of an example with unpunched paper.



This month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, July 1

(continued from page 3). The year after perfins began to be used in the US (1908), commemorative stamps were issued for the Lincoln centennial, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, and the Hudson-Fulton celebration. These commemoratives probably didn't see much use on commercial mail, and the imperforate versions of these stamps are even less likely to be found as perfins. Recently on e-Bay, a very fine copy of the A-Y-P Exposition imperforate with perfin was offered for sale by a dealer who



goes by the name "stampmd." I really liked his listing because he wrote about the history of the use of this stamp by a particular company. "About 1909, the Werner Publishing Company of Akron Ohio bought sheets of 371's for use on all their return mail envelopes and eventually perforates some of them to avoid pilferage. They are perfined "WER" on top and "NER" on the bottom, and usually the perfin mark runs 1 1/2 to a stamp as maybe the perfin spacing was set up for narrower stamps." With an opening minimum of \$9.99, this stamp sold on June 1 for \$27.50 with 5 bids.

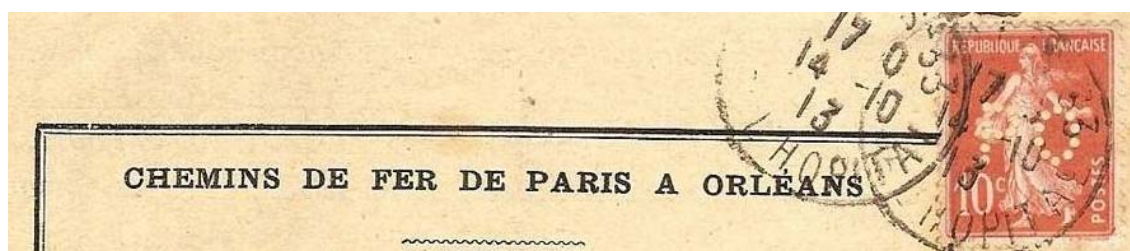
One very interesting way to collect perfins is on-covers that have a matching commercial name. That is a way to be certain that the stamp was used properly – not just to mail a letter or card, but to mail one legally by the company that purchased the stamps!

The 1910 envelope at left shows the National Suit & Cloak Company emblem, and the stamp has a large NSC above a smaller CO.



that purchased the stamps! The 1910 envelope at left shows the National Suit & Cloak Company emblem, and the stamp has a large NSC above a smaller CO.

This French folded invoice for the state railway (Chemins de Fer) shows a PO perfin for the Paris to Orleans line.



Perfins offer another interesting way to collect stamps and postal history. Do you have any in your collection?

KPS Family Members Serving in Iraq

Two KPS members now have family serving in the US military in Iraq.

Phil Ford's son, Bobby, recently contacted them from Germany to say that his unit the 370th Engineering Company has been alerted and he is on his way to Iraq for a 15 month combat tour in Sadr City in the middle of Baghdad. This is his second tour.

Nicole Sanchez's husband, Jorge, recently left for Iraq soon with his unit. He and Nicole had the opportunity to visit his family in Nicaragua and vacation in California before his deployment. On May 28, Nicole and Jorge were featured on "Salute the Troops" on the CNN Headline News morning show.

We all wish Bobby and Jorge a safe return to the states after their tours of duty.

Next month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, August 5